



Note from VERGES Working Group meeting held on 19.10.2020

PRESENT:

Peter Wright (Highways)
CC Tina Howard
Nikki Budgen
Councillor Nicola Cobb
Councillor Michele Berkeley

Peter and Tina advised that their budgets for 2020/2021 had been spent and 50% had been allocated for 2021/2022. However, if there were surplus from a project that may have an underspend etc then we might be able to get some funding allocated from within the 2021/2022 Budgets.

We had a constructive meeting and inspected all the areas on **Phase 1 – Verges Schedule**.

Peter suggested that we should select a **top 3 or 4 priorities** from our list as this would be helpful for him to get these areas priced up quickly.

Upon receipt of the prices we would then bring back to Council to discuss on how to move forward with these works.

At this point we will need to decide the timescale for the works and review what we would be willing to spend from NMPC reserves if there was no funding allocation from Highways Budgets.

During our inspection, the following **4 areas** were seen to be good, clear cut and unproblematic:

1. **DENES - Double Height Kerb.** (Repairs to the Verge with Topsoil and Seed)

This is the most practical and economical solution for this Verge.

A few other items were discussed at this point and although not directly involving the Verges it was noted as all involve Highways etc:

Tina suggested of installing some **Bike Racks** on the pavement to deter cars from mounting the pavement to park outside the Café. This could be investigated further and be part of the 'Make-Over' Plans for the Denes.

It was also suggested by Peter and Tina to look at dropping the **Kerb**, after the pedestrian crossing, to match what has already been done, to assist for Wheelchairs and Buggies etc. This could be investigated further and be part of the 'Make-Over' Plans for the Denes.

It was also suggested that to assist with drivers who still continue to drive into the Denes through the NO ENTRY point then installation of 'Give Way' markings, at the Junction, could help stop the problem. This could be investigated and be part of the 'Make-Over' Plans for the Denes.

We were advised that there could be no legal changes made to the current NO ENTRY sign.

2. **33 & 37 MEADOW ROAD** – Grasscrete both areas.

This is the most practical and economical solution for these Verges.

3. **BUNKERS LANE** (Highwoodhall-Nature Park Gate Area)- **Repair the Verge and install Verge Mark Posts in keeping with what is currently installed.**

This is the most practical and economical solution for this Verge.

At this point we reviewed the issue of a safe crossing for **BUNKERS PLAY PARK** and discussed all the traffic problems occurring around this area. Peter advised that a Scheme was in the process of being put together, although delayed at present, but would be sent out to the Parish Council for consultation.

4. **MILL CLOSE** – Grasscrete this Verge. It was suggested by Peter to look at dropping the Kerb next to the Disabled Parking area as part of this scheme.

We also reviewed the following Verges from Phase 1 and noted that at this time further discussion would need to be carried out:

EAST GREEN – Grasscrete. Although it was agreed that this would be a good solution for these Verges, due to the current issue with the opening of a 'Shaft' in this vicinity, it was felt that we should wait and see what happens with the investigations being carried out by DBC before asking for this work to be priced and carried out.

GEORGEWOOD ROAD - Junction of Barnacres – This appears to be a difficult issue to resolve easily and more discussion and thought will have to be applied to this area.

During our inspection it was agreed that if we were to install posts, or use alternative solutions on this verge, then we could create a bigger problem as cars would most probably then start parking on the kerb/highway close to the junction. Peter advised he would ask the Safety Team to review. *We could look at Verge Hardening Scheme with DBC, but this will need further research and approvals with Council.*

GEORGEWOOD ROAD – Junction of Highbarns – Although Cars do park occasionally at this Junction, which creates a safety aspect for merging traffic, the Verge is not badly damaged. A suggestion by Tina would be to install Double Height Kerb. *Further investigations need to be carried out.*

The subject of a **SID** (Speed Indicator Device) was discussed for Georgewood and we were informed that HCC would need to do a S&V Survey before a SID could be installed. However, they advised that at this moment this was not a priority due to the low number of incidents/accidents reported to them from the Police.

Peter did advise that if the Parish Council wanted to buy a moveable SID with installation of Power Points at different places then the cost would be around £5k with a 5-year Warranty. Installations currently done twice a year. This matter to be investigated and discussed further by Council.

RED LION LANE – The subject of the Yellow Lines requested at the Traffic Island near Rose Lane was raised once again. Peter advised that a scheme for Yellow Lines for Red Lion Lane would be coming out for consultation soon.

Peter advised that he would look at our priority Verges and get some prices back to Council in due course.

Note completed by Councillor Michele Berkeley